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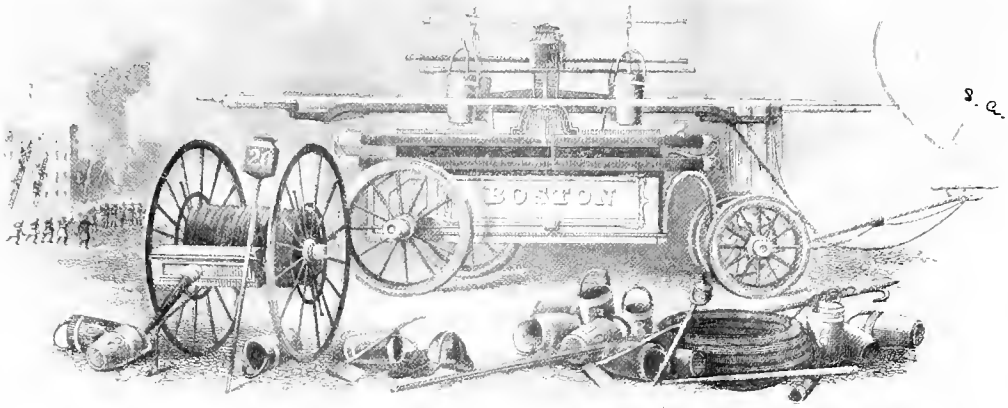

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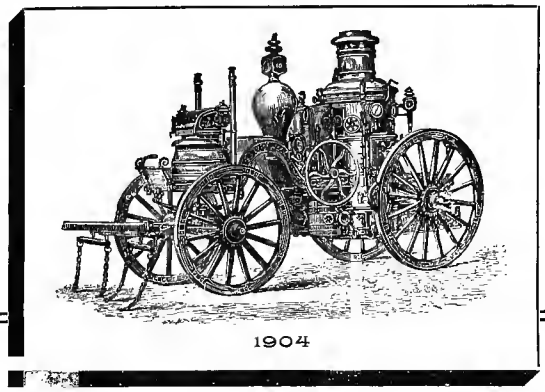
.. Official Publication ..

IN AID OF THE

BOSTON VETERAN FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 16, 1904



1904

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IN AID OF THE

BOSTON VETERAN FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PAUL REVERE HALL, MECHANICS BUILDING

Wednesday Evening

November 16th

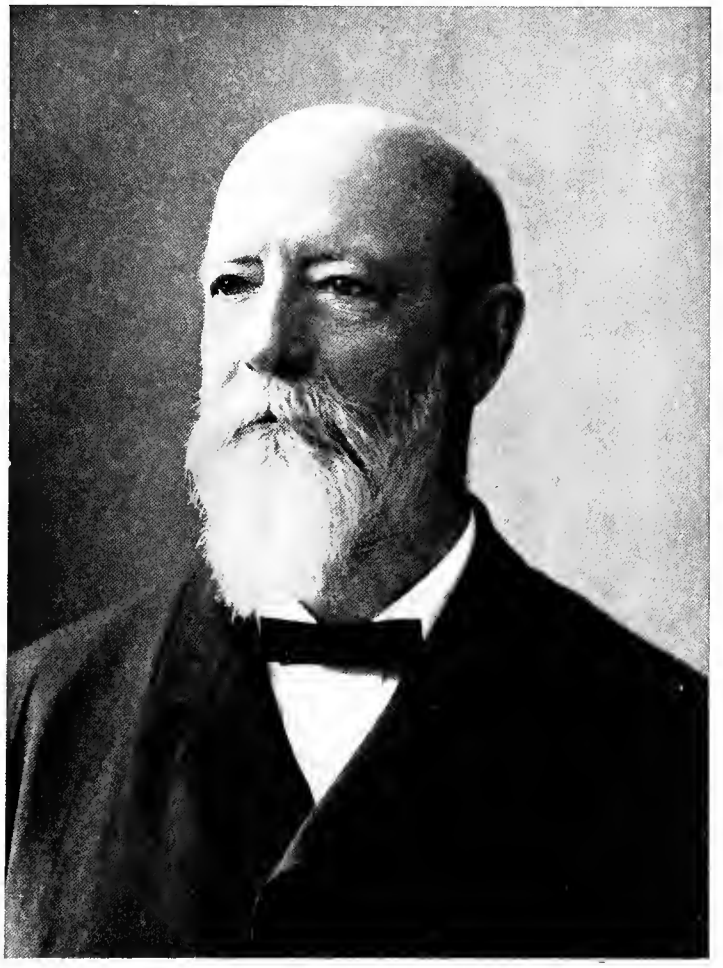
Nineteen Hundred

and Four

THE BOSTON VETERAN FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

appreciates the interest shown by the public in encouraging the Association in its endeavors to perpetuate the Organization, in the objects for which it was incorporated (for promoting social and charitable purposes with each other, and of prosecuting antiquarian, historical and literary subjects relating to the Fire Department of the City of Boston), and we also take this opportunity of extending our thanks.

As a memento of the occasion this souvenir is presented.



JOHN TAYLOR, President.

... HISTORY ...

OF THE

BOSTON VETERAN FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED DECEMBER 30, 1833 INCORPORATED MARCH 1, 1898

Headquarters, 1019 Washington Street

The first Veteran Firemen's Association of which ther is any record was organized at Boston, December 30, 1833, when Thomas C. Amory was chief of the fire department and Charles Wells was Mayor.

It was not organized for social and beneficial purposes, as were the many veteran associations of the present time (1904), but for reserve duty, as were the veteran regiments during the war of the rebellion. Its constitution provided that its purpose was "To man any engine destitute of a company for the term of one month, so that the city shall have the service of the engine while a company is forming for it, also to assist any part of the department, or perform any duty they may be called upon to do by any engineer."

Seven years before, the fire department bad been entirely reorganized by Mayor Josiah Quincy ; the old time board of fire wards succeeded by a board of engineers with a chief who devoted his entire time to the service, and many other modern improvements adopted. The original members of the Veteran Association consisted of those who had served as active firemen during the entire seven years the department had been under the new system, which established the seven-year term of service to entitle one to receive a veteran's certificate, a custom which has prevailed to, and is in operation at the present time.

The original and first members of the Veteran Association were not all ex-members of the department. Many were then in active service, and a number of its officers and directors were prominent department officials.

In addition to operating apparatus without companies, its mission was to remedy some of the evils which then existed in the department, and to improve the service in every way possible, as mentioned in the address it issued to the public, herewith introduced verbatim.

Who originated the idea of its organization cannot now be ascertained, but its prime movers and organizers were among those who were elected as its first board of officers.

Preliminary meetings were held by its promoters and arrangements made for its organization, resulting in issuing to the public through the local newspapers the following notice :

NOTICE.

The seven-year members of the Boston Fire Department are hereby notified that their adjourned meeting will be held at the Exchange Coffee House this evening at 7 o'clock. Their punctual attendance is particulary requested.

Per order of the Committee.

WILLIAM G. EATON, Secretary.

Nov. 20, 1833.

Col. Thomas C. Amory, Chief of the Department, was elected Chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Eaton, then an assistant engineer, Secretary.

Aside from a general discussion of the proposed organization, the only important action of the meeting was the adoption of the following resolutions :

Resolved, That we experience the most heartfelt satisfaction in meeting each other on this occasion, and that we will one and all, at all times and on all occasions, use our best efforts to maintain the respectability, the good order, harmony and efficiency of the Boston Fire Department.

Resolved, That it is expedient to form an association of seven-year members of the Boston Fire Department, to be composed of such only as are willing to work when the public exigency requires.

Resolved, That Wm. G. Eaton, David Parker, James Boyd, Charles S. Clark, Charles F. Kupper, Jr., John B. Parker and Henry Curtis be appointed a committee to consult with the Chief Engineer, and the Mayor and Aldermen, in relation to the manner in which we can best render further service to the public and to the department, and to draft a constitution for the consideration of an adjourned meeting.

A committee consisting of W. G. Eaton, Foreman Rufus R. Cook of Lyman Engine Co. No. 5, and Foreman John Tuttle of Cataract Engine Co. No. 14, who were appointed a committee at a preliminary meeting of its promoters to have the organization matters in charge, were instructed by this meeting to call an adjourned meeting.

JOSEPH HALSTRICK, 1st Vice-President.

Best Wishes of

Wm. H. Brewster & Co.

Boston, Mass.

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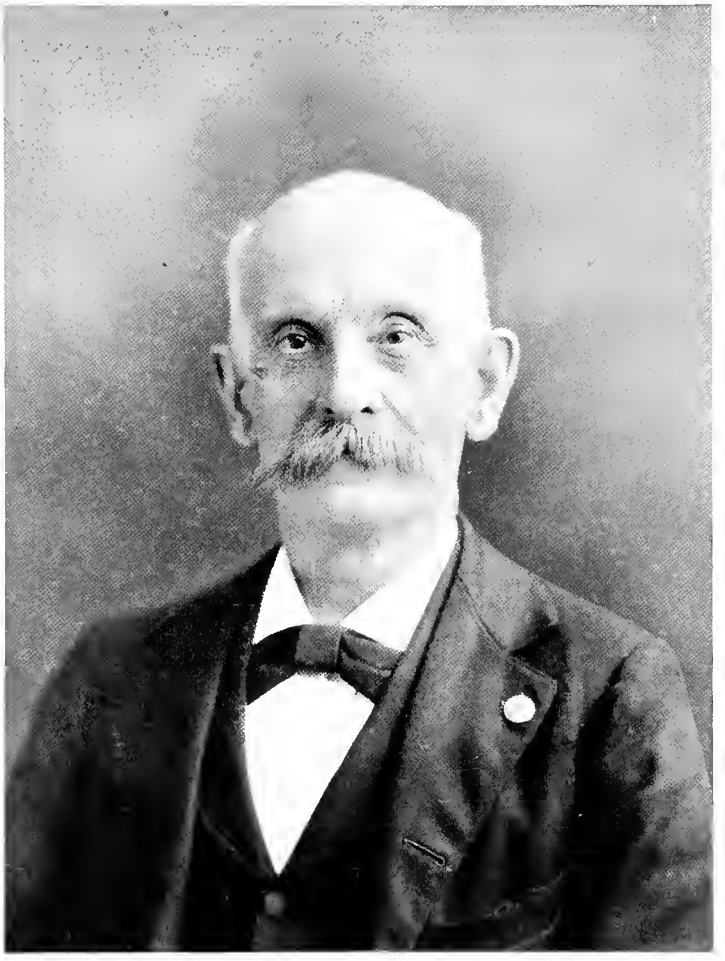

ISAAC K. JENNINGS, 2d Vice-President.

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No amount of persuasion can induce mothers who have once used these great skin purifiers and beautifiers to use any others for preserving, purifying, and beautifying the skin, scalp, hair, and hands of infants and children. CUTICURA SOAP combines delicate emollient properties derived from CUTICURA, the great skin cure, with the purest of cleansing ingredients, and the most refreshing of flower odours. Together they form the only speedy, economical, and infallible cure of itching, scaly, and crusted humours, rashes, and irritations of the skin, scalp, and hair from infancy to age. Guaranteed absolutely pure.

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CAPT. H. E. THOMPSON, Financial Secretary.

COMPLIMENTS OF

LEE, HIGGINSON & CO.

COMPLIMENTS OF

R. H. WHITE CO.

WM. P. CHERRINGTON, Recording Secretary.

ELIJAH S. COWLES, Pres't. EDWIN SHEAFE, Treas. and Manager. CHAS. L. HILL, Sec'y.

Boston Automatic Fire Alarm Company

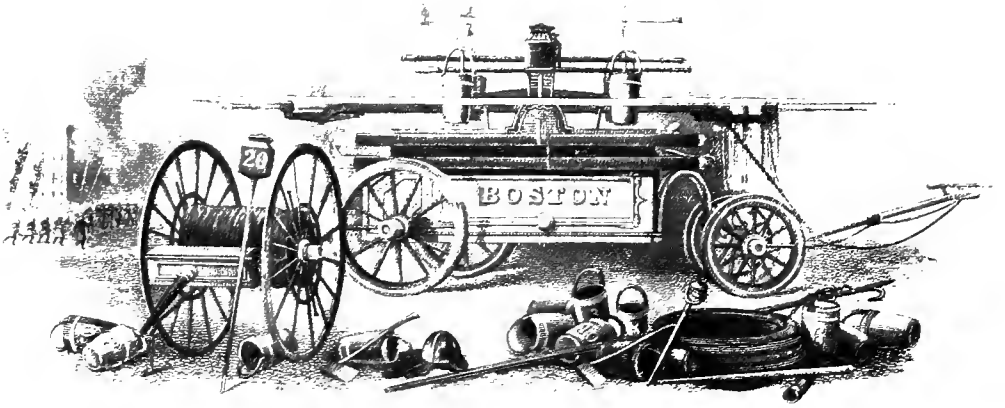
AUTOMATIC AND AUXILIARY

Fire and Sprinkler Alarms

CENTRAL STATION AND OFFICE:

104 Milk Street, - Boston

SAMUEL ABBOTT, JR., Director.



Firewards for the Town of Boston

1711 to 1825 inclusive

Compiled by Past President SAMUEL ABBOTT, JR.,

Superintendent of Boston Protective Department.

On October 31, 1710, the town of Boston was divided into fire districts, under the management of firewards, which office was created by the following act of the General Court at this date :

AN ACT *providing in case of fire for the more speedy extinguishment thereof, and for the preserving of goods endangered thereby.*

Whereas, by reason of the contiguity and adjoining of the houses and dwellings within the town of Boston, persons are under great affrightment and hurry upon the breaking out of fire, and not only the person in whose house the fire first breaks out, but the neighbourhood, are concerned to employ their utmost dilligence and application to extinguish the fire and prevent the progress thereof, and to preserve in substance by the removal of their goods, being glad of the assistance of others in that regard, and divers evilminded and wicked persons, on pretence of charitable offering their help, taking advantage of such confusion and calamities to rob, plunder, embezzle, convey away and conceal the goods and effects of their distressed neighbours.

For preventing whereof,

Be it enacted by his excellency the governor, council and representatives, in general court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the justices of the peace and selectmen of the town of Boston from time to time to appoint such number of prudent persons of known fidelity, not exceeding ten, in the several parts of the Town, as they may think fit, who shall be denominated and called Fire-Wards, and have a proper badge assigned to distinguish them in their office, a staff of five feet in length coulered red, and headed with a bright brass spire of six inches long, and at times of the breaking forth of fire and during the continuance thereof, shall, and hereby are fully authorized and empowered to command and require assistance for the extinguishing and putting out the fire, and for removing of household stuff, furniture, goods and merchandise out of any dwelling-houses, storehouses or other buildings actually on fire or in danger thereof and guards to secure and take care of the same, as also to require assistance for the pulling down or blowing up of any houses or any other service relating thereto by the direction of two or three of the chief civil or military officers of the Town, as is by law provided, to stop and prevent the further spreading of the fire, and to suppress all tumults and disorder.

And the officers from time to time appointed as aforesaid are required upon the notice of fire breaking forth, taking their badge with them, immediately to repair to the place, and vigorously to exert their authority for the requiring of assistance, and using utmost endeavours to extinguish or prevent the spreading of the fire and to preserve and secure the estate of the inhabitants ; and due obedience is required to be yielded to them and each of them accordingly for that service.

And all disobedience, neglect or refusal in any, shall be informed of to some of her majesty's justice of the peace within two days next after, and the offenders therein, upon conviction thereof, before any two justices, quorum unus, shall

forfeit and pay the sum of forty shillings each, to be levied and distributed by the discretion of the selectmen amongst the poor most distressed by fire, and in case the offender or offenders are unable to satisfy the fine, then to suffer ten days' imprisonment.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any evilminded wicked person shall take advantage of such calamity to rob, plunder, purloin, embezzle, convey away or conceal any goods, merchandise or effects of the distressed inhabitants whose houses are on fire or endangered thereby and put upon removing their goods, and shall not restore and give notice thereof to the owner or owners, if known, or bring them into such public place as shall be appointed and assigned by the governor and council, within the space of two days next after proclamation made for that purpose, the person or persons so offending, and being thereof convicted shall be deemed thieves and suffer the utmost severities of the pain and penalties by the law provided against such.

At a meeting of Her Maj^ties Justices and the select men of Boston ye 1st day of Feby 1711. Voted that (*the first ten persons named below*) be ye Fire-wards for and within this town.

Ballentine, Capt. Jno.	1711 to 1731 inclusive.
Clark, Capt. Timothy	1711 to 1731 "
Winslow, Capt. Edward	1711 to 1744 "
Martyn, Capt. Edward	1711 to 1718 " Died
Minot, Stephen	1711 to 1739 inclusive.
Greenwood, Mr. Samuel	1711 to 1731 "
Greenough, Mr. John	1711 to 1731 "
Pollard, Mr. Jno.	1711 to 1731 "
Lee, Mr. Thom.	1711 to 1731 "
Lowder, Mr. Wm.	1711 to 1731 "
Fairweather, Capt. John	1719 to 1731 "
Ruck, Mr. Thom.	1732 to 1744 "
Tyler, Mr. Andrew	1732 to 1739 "
Adams, Mr. Samuel	1732 to 1744 "
Cheever, Mr. Joshua	1732 to 1744 "
Lee, Mr. John	1732 to 1739 "
Greenleaf, Mr. Wm.	1732 to 1744 "
White, Mr. Isaac	1732 to 1749 "
Downe, Col. Wm.	1732 to 1745 "
Pollard, Capt. Benj.	1740 to 1744 "
Carnes, Mr. John	1740 to 1753 "
Berry, Capt. Henry	1740 to 1752 "
Breck, Mr. Robt.	1745 to 1749 "
*Scollay, Mr. John	1745 to 1764 "
Jackson, Mr. Joseph (Hatter)	1745 to 1765 "
Hill, Col. John	1745 to 1756 "
Salter, Capt. Wm.	1745
Russell, Capt. Joseph	1745 to 1751 "
Day, Mr. James	1746 to 1752 "
Phillips, Mr. John	1746 to 1761 "
Thwing, Maj. Nathaniel	1750–51 1753 to 1755 "
Tyler, Mr. Royal	1750 to 1764 "
Tudor, Mr. John	1752–53
Freeman, Capt. Isaac	1752–53
Greenough, Mr. Newman	1753 to 1777 "
Foster, Capt. Hopestill	1753 to 1760 "
Jackson, Jr., Mr. Thos.	1753–54
Jackson, Mr. Joseph (Truckman)	1754 to 1764 "
Davis, Capt. Solomon	1754 1759 to 1764 "
Gruchy, Capt. Thos. J.	1754–55
Cooper, Mr. Wm.	1755 to 1788 "
Rowe, Mr. John	1755 to 1771 "
Wheelwright, Mr. Nathaniel W.	1756 to 1758 "
Savage, Capt. Thos.	1756 to 1758 "
Flucker, Mr. Thos.	1757 to 1759 "
Austin, Mr. Samuel	1759 to 1765 "
Wendell, Mr. John Mico	1760 to 1773 "
Inches, Mr. Henderson	1761 to 1764 inclusive.
Marshall, Mr. Thomas	1762 to 1776 "
Holmes, Mr. Wm.	1764 to 1770 "
Tyler, Mr. Joseph	1764 to 1774 "
Williams, Mr. Jonathan	1764 to 1767 "
Fitch, Mr. Timothy	1764
Poddock, Capt Adino	1765 to 1776 "
Tayler, Col. Wm.	1765
Richardson, Mr. James	1765 to 1772 "
Cheever, Mr. Wm. Downe	1765 to 1767 "
Cunningham, Mr. James	1765 to 1771 "
Waldo, Capt. Benj.	1765 to 1776 "
Hancock, Mr. John	1766 to 1773 "
Adams, Mr. Samuel	1766 to 1774 "
Shaw Mr. Francis	1766 1771 to 1775 " 1777 to 1783 "
Gay, Mr. Martin	1767–68 1772 to 1774 "
Daws, Mr. Thomas	1768 to 1772 "
*Scollay, Mr. John	1768 to 1783 "
Hill, Mr. Alexander	1769 to 1773 "
Prince, Capt. Job	1772 to 1775 "
Coffin, Mr. John	1773–74
Proctor, Capt. Edward	1773 to 1783 "
Pulling, Capt. John	1774 to 1782 "
Cbeever, Mr. David	1774
Davis, Mr. Caleb	1774 to 1783 "
Cheever, Mr. Ezekiel	1775
Barrett, Capt. Samuel	1775–76
Cleverly, Mr. Stephen	1775
Hancock, Mr. Ebenezer	1775 to 1782 " 1787–88
Crafts, Jr., Mr. Thomas	1775 to 1778 "
Revere, Mr. Paul	1776 to 1779 "
Tileston, Mr. Thomas	1776 to 1788 "
Hopkins, Capt. Caleb	1776
Phillips, Mr. Isaac " Capt. Isaac	1776 1783 to 1785 "
Symms, Maj. Andrew	1777 to 1782 " 1784 to 1788 "
Webb, Capt. Joseph	1777 to 1783 "
Winthrop, Mr. John	1777 to 1798 "
Fellows, Capt. Gustavus	1777 to 1785 "
Ballard, Capt. John	1777 to 1782 "
Lowell, Mr. John	1778 to 1795 "
Melvill, Maj. Thomas	1779 to 1823 " See Ward 4, 1824
Hatch, Col. Jabez	1780 to 1799 inclusive.
Waters, Col. Josiah	1783–84

Rodes, Mr. Jacob	1783 to 1790, inclusive
Parsons, Capt. Ebenezer	1783–84
Jones, Mr. John Coffin	1783 to 1795 "
Ballard, Capt. John	1784 to 1788 "
Russell, Jr., Mr. Joseph	1784 1789 to 1799 "
Sargent, Mr. Paul D.	1784 1786 to 1788 "
Mackay, Capt. Mungo	1784 1792 to 1797 "
Clark, Mr. Joseph	1784 to 1793 "
Breck, Mr. Samuel	1785 to 1791 "
Bass, Mr. Henry	1785 to 1788 "
May, Mr. John	1785 to 1789 "
Davis, Hon. Caleb	1786 1789 to 1792 "
Russell, Mr. Thomas	1789 to 1792 "
Hubbard, Mr. David	1789
Parkman, Mr. Samuel	1789 1791 to 1806 "
Ballard, Mr. John	1789
Edes, Mr. Edward	1789 to 1803 "
Davis, Mr. Amasa	1790 to 1797 " 1799 to 1808 "
Whitwell, Mr. Samuel	1790 to 1795 "
Sturgis, Mr. Russell	1790–91 1796 to 1800 "
Mason, Jr., Mr. Jonathan	1790 to 1795 "
Sweetser, Mr. John	1790
Jackson, Gen. Henry	1791 to 1808 "
Scollay, Col. Wm.	1792 to 1806 "
Tisdale, Mr. James	1793 to 1799 "
May, Mr. Joseph	1793 to 1812 "
Sherburn, Wm.	1794–95
Little, Mr. Wm.	1796 to 1799 "
Gardner, Mr. Robert	1796 to 1803 "
Cunningham, Maj. Andrew	1796 to 1818 "
May, Col. John	1798 to 1803 "
Brown, Deacon Wm.	1798 to 1803 "
Fellows, Captain Nathaniel	1798 to 1800 "
Bradford, Mr. Samuel	1798 to 1808 "
Head, Mr Joseph	1798 to 1812 "
Perkins, Mr. Thomas H.	1798 to 1809 "
Winslow, Col. John	1798 to 1818 "
Howard, Mr. Joseph	1798 to 1803 "
Joy, Mr. Benjamin	1798 to 1803 "
Codman, Mr. Stephen	1798 to 1823 " See Ward 7–1824
Bray, Mr. John	1800 to 1815 " 1817 to 1820 "
Dennie, Mr. Thomas	1800 to 1809 "
Elliot, Gen. Simon	1800 to 1809 "
Parsons, Mr. Gorham	1800
Amory, Mr. Rufus G.	1801 to 1805 "
Hunewell, Mr. Jonathan	1801 to 1818 "
Messinger, Mr. Daniel	1801 to 1823 " See Ward 10—1824–25
Goodwin, Mr. Ozias	1804 to 1808 inclusive.
Curtis, Mr. Thomas	1804 to 1811 "
Howard, Mr. John D.	1804 to 1807 "
Hays, Mr. Judah	1804–05
Davis, Jr., Mr. Joshua	1804 to 1812 "
Coates, Mr. Benjamin	1804 to 1812 "
Sullivan, Mr. Wm.	1806 to 1814 "
Smith, Mr. Benjamin	1806 to 1821 " See Ward 3—1824–25.
Sargent, Mr Ignatius	1807 to 1812 inclusive.
Swett, Mr. Samuel	1807 to 1812 "
Fowle, Mr. Henry	1807
Phillips, Mr. James	1808 to 1821 "
Curtis, Mr. Nathaniel	1809 to 1820 "
Crufts, Mr. Edward	1809 to 1817 "
Tilden, Mr. Bryant P.	1809 to 1815 " 1819 to 1821 " 1823 See Ward 8—1824
Baker, Mr. Barker	1809
Webb, Mr. Nathen	1810 to 1820 inclusive.
Blanchard, Mr. Geo.	1810 to 1815 "
Thayer, Mr. Sam'l M.	1810 to 1823 " See Ward 7—1824–25.
Robinson, Mr. James	1810–11
Lovering, Mr. Joseph	1812 to 1821 inclusive.
Williams, Mr. John D.	1812 to 1823 " See Ward 12—1824.
Tilden, Mr. Joseph	1813 to 1817 inclusive.
Page, Mr. Thomas	1813–14
Austin, Mr. Joseph	1813 to 1820 "
Rich, Mr. Benjamin	1813 to 1818 "
King, Mr. Gidney	1813 to 1818 "
Oliver, Mr. Francis J.	1813 to 1818 "
Loring, Mr. Jonathan	1815 to 1821 "
Mackay, Mr. John	1815 to 1821 "
Harris, Mr. Wm.	1816 to 1818 "
Winslow, Jr., Mr. John	1816
Phillips, Mr. Turner	1816 to 1820 "
Davis, Mr. Joshua	1818 to 1820 "
Shaw, Mr. Lemuel	1818 to 1821 "
Jackson, Mr. Thomas	1819 to 1823 " See Ward 10—1824–5.
Welles, Mr. Sam'l A.	1819 to 1821 inclusive.
Fitch, Mr. Jeremiah	1819 to 1823 "
Whitney, Mr. Jonathan	1819 to 1823 "
Lewis, Mr. Winslow	1819 to 1821 "
Binney, Mr. Amos	1819 to 1821 "
Silsby, Mr. Enoch	1819 to 1821 "
Harris, Mr. Isaac	1819 to 1821 "
Otis, Mr. Geo. W.	1819 to 1822 "
Jones, Mr. Joseph.	1819 to 1823 " See Ward 9—1824–25.
Howe, Mr. Wm.	1819 to 1821 inclusive.
Russell, Mr. Benjamin	1819 to 1821 "
Burrows, Mr. Wm.	1821
Hitchborn, Jr., Mr. Sam'l	1821
Thaxter, Mr. Jonathan	1821 to 1823 " See Ward 5—1824.
Darricott, Mr. Geo.	1821
Davis, Mr. James	1821–22
Williams, Mr. Eliph.	1821
Wheeler, Mr. John H.	1821 to 1823 inclusive. See Ward 11—1824–25.
Adams, Mr. Joseph H.	1822–23 See Ward 6—1824.
Bacon, Mr. Robert	1822–23 See Ward 3—1824–25.
Ballard, Mr. Daniel	1822
Brigham, Mr. Levi	1822–23 See Ward 8—1824.
Brooks, Mr. Noah	1822
Coomey, Mr. Benjamin	1822–23
Darling, Mr. Benjamin	1822–23 See Ward 9—1824–25.

Ellis, Mr. Jabez	1822–23 See Ward 11—1824–25
Harris, Mr. Leach	1822–23 See Ward 9—1824.
Holbrook, Mr. Genet	1822–23 See Ward 3—1824
Lincoln, Mr. Jared	1822–23 See Ward 6 – 1824–25
Lock, Mr. Stephen	1822–23
Magee, Mr. James	1822
Minot, Mr. John	1822–23
Phillips, Mr. John L.	1822–23 See Ward 11—1824–25
Pratt, Mr. Eleazer	1822–23 See Ward 1—1824
Richardson, Mr. Luke	1822–23
Shipley, Mr. Joel	1822–23 See Ward 6, 1824
Stone, Mr. Joseph	1822
Tileston, Mr. Wm.	1822–23 See Ward 7—1824–25
Truman, Mr. J. F.	1822–23
Tucker, Mr. Wm.	1822–23 See Ward 8 – 1824–25
Wheeler, Mr. Samuel S.	1822–23 See Ward 12—1824–25
Alger, Mr. Cyrus	1823
Allen, Mr. John	1823 See Ward 5—1824
Dodd, Mr. Benjamin	1823
Hall, Mr. John	1823 See Ward 5—1825
Howe, Mr. Wm.	1823
Pierce, Mr. Isaac	1823 See Ward 2—1824

1824.

Ward 1. Pratt, Eleazer ; Orcutt, John P. ; Trask, Elijah
Ward 2. Chandler, Oliver ; Pierce, Isaac ; Reed, Thomas
Ward 3. Bacon, Robert ; Holbrook Genet ; Smith, Benj.
Ward 4. Melvill, Thos. ; Reed, Reuben ; *Vacancy.*
Ward 5. Thaxter, Jonathan ; Allen, John ; Annable, Joseph D.
Ward 6. Shipley, Joel ; Adams, Joseph H. ; Lincoln, Jared
Ward 7. Codman, Stephen ; Tileston, Wm. ; Thayer, Samuel M.
Ward 8. Tilden, Bryant P.; Brigham, Levi ; Tucker, Wm.
Ward 9. Darling, Benj. ; Harris, Leach ; Jones, Jos.
Ward 10 Messenger, Daniel ; Jackson Thos. ; Prentice, William H.
Ward 11. Ellis, Jabez ; Wheeler, John H. ; Phillips, John L.
Ward 12. Williams John D.; Wheeler, Sam'l S. ; Simonds, Artemas.

1825.

Ward 1. Collier, William ; Watson, Horace H.; Kent Henry S.
Ward 2. Reed, Thomas ; Wallis, Aaron ; *Vacancy.*
Ward 3. Bacon, Robert ; Smith, Benj. ; Tirrell Thomas.
Ward 4. Mitchell, Phinehas ; Reed, Reuben ; Riley, George
Ward 5. Hall, John; Thacher, David; Greenleaf Oliver C.
Ward 6. Lincoln, Jared ; Coolidge, Samuel F. ; Brown, Daniel.
Ward 7. Thayer, Samuel M.; Tileston, William; Richardson, Asa.
Ward 8. Tucker, Wm.; Perkins, Jr., Thomas H.; Hamilton, James.
Ward 9. Darling, Benjamin ; Jones, Joseph ; Richards, Nathaniel.
Ward 10. Messenger, Daniel; Jackson, Thomas ; Prentice, William H.
Ward 11. Wheeler, John H.; Ellis, Jabez; Phillips, John L.
Ward 12. Wheeler, Samuel S. ; Reynolds, Brewster ; Stetson, Alpheus.

The first general election of (10) Fire-wards was March 10, 1745.

The number of Fire-wards were increased to 12 in 1753 ; 16 in 1764 ; 24 in 1798 ; 30 in 1819 ; 36 in 1822 ; in 1824, 3 from each Ward.

June 18, 1825, an Act was passed by the Legislature establishing a Fire Department in the city of Boston.

At a meeting of the citizens in Faneuil Hall, July 7, 1825, the act was accepted.

In December, 1825, the City Council passed "An Ordinance for the prevention and extinguishment of fires and establishing a Fire Department." The ordinance provided for "a chief engineer and twenty other engineers," also fire men, engine men, hose men, etc. The election and appointment of said engineers by said ordinance was to take place annually in the month of January.

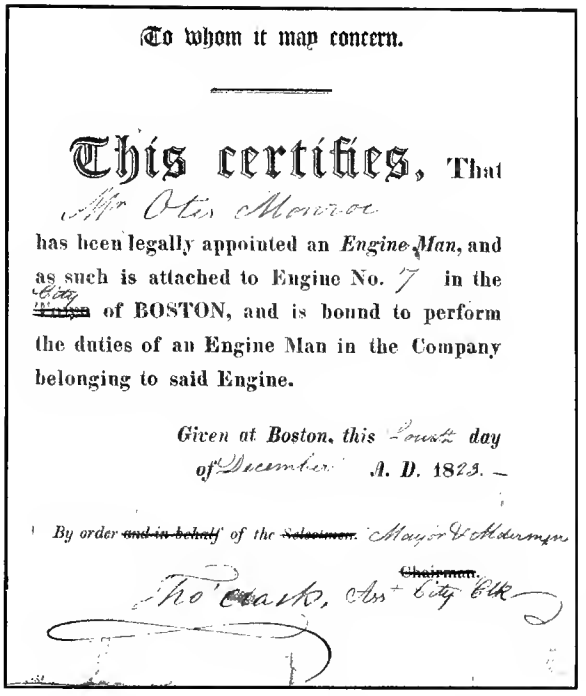
In January, 1826, Samuel Devens Harris was nominated and chosen chief engineer. In the same month the following named gentlemen were chosen engineers :—Daniel C. Bacon, Simon Wilkinson, Alexander H. Gibbs, Thomas H. Perkins, Jr., Benjamin Darling, Henry Fowle, Jr., Brewster Reynolds, George Darracott, John Candler, William Tileston, William Tucker, John Farrie, Jr., Joseph D. Emery, Alpheus Stetson, Gerry Fairbanks, Thomas B. Curtis, Oliver C. Greenleaf, Samuel F. Coolidge, Horace Fox and Flavel Moseley. A few days later in the same month, Tucker and Greenleaf declined, and William H. Prentice and Joel Prouty were chosen in their stead. In February, John Farrie, Jr., Flavel Moseley, Brewster Reynolds and Thomas B. Curtis declined serving, and James Clark, Charles Wells, Nathan Viles and Mark Weare, were chosen in their places.

In June, Samuel F. Coolidge declined serving and Benjamin T. Reed was chosen in his stead.

For continuation of Chief Officers of the Boston Fire Department see official publication of the Boston Veteran Firemen's Association for 1903.

Our First President — CAPTAIN OTIS MUNROE.

First President of the Boston Veteran Firemen's Association, at its Re-organization, April 9, 1878



To whom it may concern.

This certifies, That Mr Otis Munroe has been legally appointed an *Engine Man*, and as such is attached to Engine No. 7 in the City of BOSTON, and is bound to perform the duties of an Engine Man in the Company belonging to said Engine.

Given at Boston, this Fourth *day of* December *A. D.* 1823.

By order ~~and in behalf~~ *of the* ~~Selectmen.~~ Mayor & Aldermen

~~Chairman.~~

Thos Clark, Asst City Clk

This picture of our first President is copied from a card photograph, the only one in the possession of his daughters, who reside at the old homestead in Brookline.

Capt. Munroe was born in Lexington, Mass., November 29, 1798. He was christened Harrison Gray Otis Munroe, and under that name was married to Sophia Harrington, of Lexington, December 12, 1822. The house in which they were married, a relic of revolutionary days, is still standing, facing Lexington Common, and is occupied by the Town Clerk, Geo. Harrington, a relative of Sophia.

In early life he learned the trade of shoemaking, and for a short time filled the position of school-teacher.

At the time of his marriage he was engaged in the grain business with his brother Edwin, under the firm name of E. & O. Munroe, having discarded the "Harrison Gray" part of his name, and was always known thereafter as simply "Otis." Their store was on Codman's Wharf, on the site now occupied by the rotunda of Quincy Market. After the building of the market the firm moved to Commercial Street, where they continued in business until about 1884.

His father, Philemon Munroe, was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, and belonged to the Lexington Company.

Mr. Munroe's record as a Boston fireman is a most noted one. He was appointed an "Engine Man" December 4, 1823, and assigned to Engine No. 7 "Extinguisher," which was located near the site of the Old Court House. It was a crack company, composed of many of Boston's best citizens.

A copy of this certificate, one-quarter the size of the original, is presented herewith. It is a "Town" Certificate changed to "City," as Boston was made a City in 1822, and either for the purpose of economy or neglect to have new ones printed, they used what they had on hand.

As in all matters that he was interested, he gave his earnest efforts in behalf of the Department, and was recognized as authority on all subjects affecting its interest, and it was in a measure owing to his suggestion that the department was reorganized under Mayor Quincy, in 1825, and two new engines, the "New York" and the "Philadelphia," were introduced.

In 1826 Mr. Munroe was asked to form a new company and in twenty-four hours the work was accomplished and Old North No. 1 elected him Captain, a position he held for eleven consecutive years. His certificate as member of No. 1 is dated April 15, 1825, signed by Josiah Quincy, Mayor, and and S. F. McCleary, City Clerk.

In 1839, under Mayor Eliot's administration, the fire department depreciated in service and, being a strictly volunteer organization, Captain Munroe suggested making it a paid force, under which it would be possible to enforce discipline, and his idea was adopted; the old force was discharged and a new one organized. This course caused some jealousy and friction between the old and the new men.

During this trouble Captain Munroe was an engineer, and devoted his energies to making the company perfect in matters of discipline, and he soon brought order out of chaos. After serving as engineer for three years he resigned and went back to his first love, Old North No. 1.

In the archives of the Boston Veteran Firemen's Association is an autograph list of the men living in 1869 who had belonged to "Old North." It is the gift of Mr. Walter H. Dugan of Brookline, grandson of Captain Munroe. Among the names are many of Boston's most noted citizens in the various walks of life. Their average age at that date was 65 years—James H. Bennett, 2d, being the oldest, 78 years, while Captain Munroe came next, aged 71 years. Among the 38 names we notice that of Moses Kimhall, clerk, and Alvan Adams, founder of the express business, at one time foreman.

When the Boston Veteran Association was reorganized in 1878 it elected for its first president Captain Otis Munroe, and for its first vice-president Captain Charles H. Stearns, both of whom were active members of the original Association organized in 1833. During the years 1878, 1879 and 1880 Captain Munroe was re-elected president and Captain Stearns vice-president. When elected he was 80 years of age and continued an active member of the Association until his death, May 10, 1894, Aged 95 years, 5 months and 11 days.

In the home at Brookline, carefully preserved by his daughters, Miss Sophia Munroe and Mrs. Rebecca Dugan, is a beautiful silver pitcher, made of new American half dollars, contriubted by the members of the Old North Engine Company No. 1. On one side is a fine engraved picture of the engine, and on the reverse the following inscription:

Presented to
MR. OTIS MUNROE
by the
MEMBERS OF ENGINE COMPANY No. 1
as a Testimony of Respect for his Valuable
Services while their 1st Officer.
Boston, March 11, 1830.

This token of love is one of the many tributes to the character, the ability, and the genial disposition of "Our First President," and before many years will pass into the possession of his only grandson, Mr. Walter H. Dugan, who, having retired from active business, is following the example of his ancestor and devoting his time to the welfare of others, as a director in the Young Men's Choral Union of Boston.

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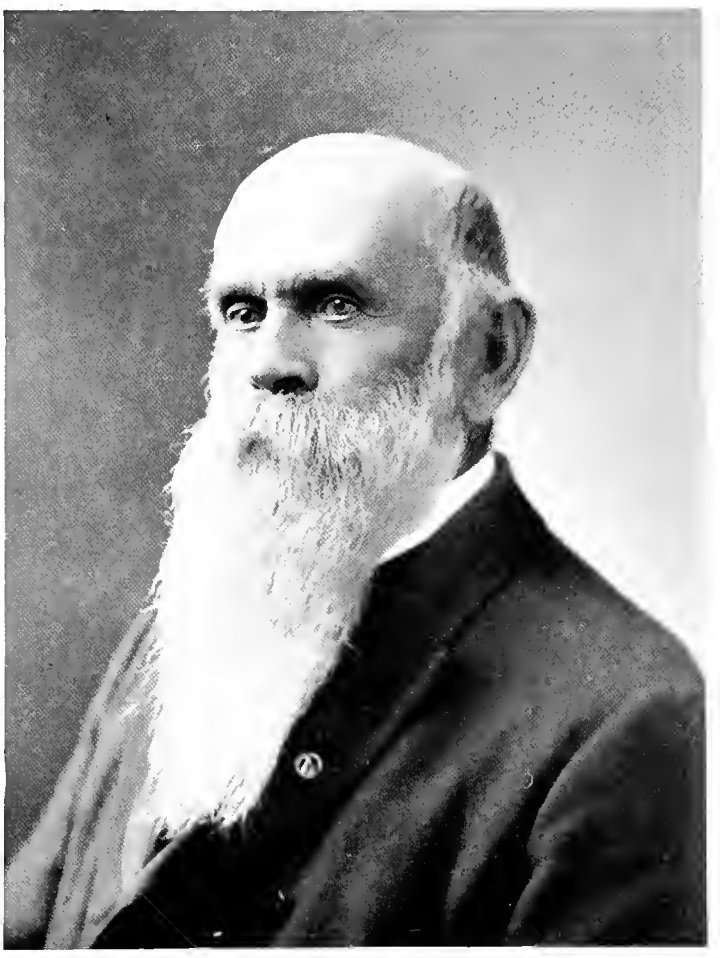

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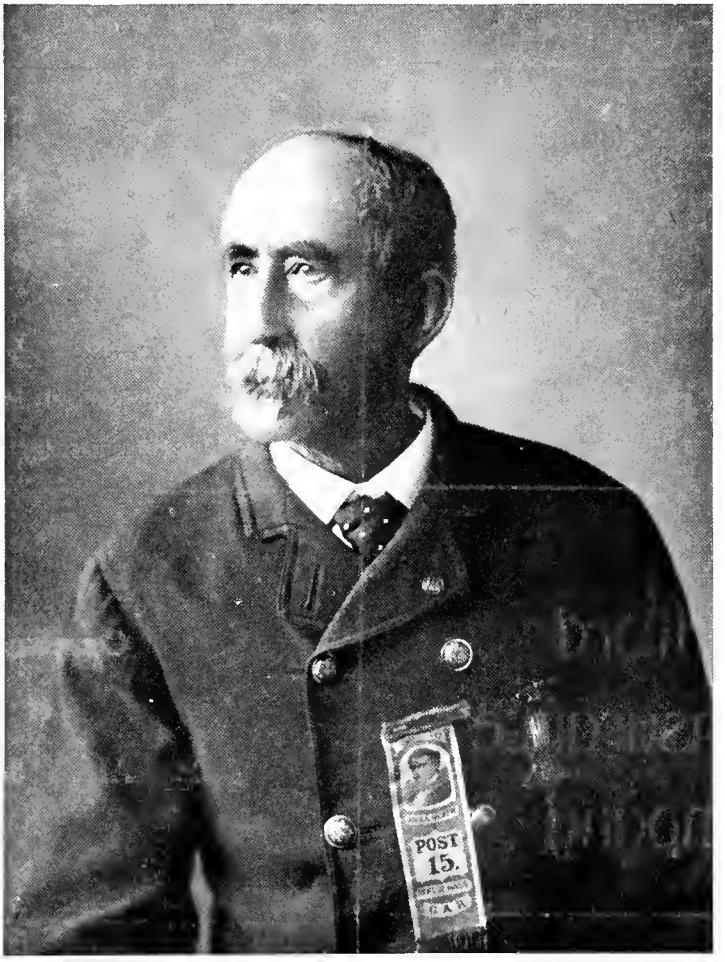

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